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REMARKS

The present filing is responsive to the Examiner's concerns noted in the Office Action.

Summary of the Response

The specification has been amended. Claims 3, 5, 8, 11 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-16 have been amended. New claims 20-24 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12-24 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application as amended are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings and Claims

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's detailed comments relating to the objections. The noted deficiencies have been corrected as appropriate.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 112

Claims 2, 4, and 6-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicant amended the affected claims to correct the noted deficiencies.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11-13.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7-9, 14-15 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Myono. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Morishita. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

On the outset, Applicant notes that the publication date of the Myono reference is less than one year prior to the earliest priority filing date of application GB 0301077.4, which was filed by Applicant on January 17, 2003, of which priority has been claimed in the present application via the earlier filed PCT application. Further, the publication date of Morishita is after the earliest priority filing date of application GB0301077.4, and is less than one year prior to the priority filing date of another application GB 0314644.6, which was filed by Applicant on June 24, 2003, of which priority has been claimed in the present application via the earlier filed PCT application. However, in the interest of forwarding the present application to early allowance, Applicant has not yet considered relying on the priority claims to earlier filings in GB to overcome the cited references, but reserves the right to do so at a later date. Applicant does not concede to the cited references as proper prior art.

While applicant does not agree with the Examiner's rejection, Applicant has rewritten claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 11 and intervening claims. Claim 1 and all the claims dependent therefrom should now be patentable.

Further with respect to original claim 7, Applicant respectfully submits that Myono does not disclose the charge pump section comprising an input switch and an output switch in series connected together. The Examiner relied upon diodes C2, C'2, D2 and D'2 in Fig. 7 of Myono to correspond to switches, which is clearly incorrect. Diodes are by nature not switches (active devices) that can be controlled to regulate signals along the paths along which the switches are

disposed. Instead, diodes are passive polar devices that do not provide a switching function. Diodes instead permit current flow in only one direction and no current flow in the opposite direction. Claim 7 is therefore not anticipated by Myono. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form, as new claim 20.

Further with respect to claim 15, Applicant respectfully submits that Myono does not disclose the recited charge pump capacitor of at least one charge pump section of the voltage increasing stage and charge pump capacitor of at least one charge pump section of the voltage decreasing stage are connected together. Further, claim 15 recites (via claim 8) that each charge pump section may comprise a first input switch and output switch in series connected together at a first junction node, a second input switch and output switch in series connected together at a second junction node, a first charge pump capacitor connected between the first junction node and a first control line and a second charge pump capacitor connected between the second junction node and a second control line. This configuration provides two pump circuits in parallel, so that charge pumping can be performed during all clock cycles. As noted above with respect to claim 7, the diodes in Myono do not correspond to the recited switches, much less switches that are connected in the recited manner. Claim 15 is therefore not anticipated by Myono. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form, as new claim 20.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 103

Claims 2, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morishita as applied to claims 1, 3, and 5, respectively described above. Claims 10 and 19 are

AUG 07 2007

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Myono as applied to respective claims 8 and 18 above. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Given that claim 1 as amended is patentable, the 103 rejections herein have been overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of all the foregoing, Applicant submits that the claims pending in this application are patentable over the references of record and are in condition for allowance. Such action at an early date is earnestly solicited. **The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned representative to discuss any outstanding issues that may not have been adequately addressed in this response.**

Respectfully submitted,

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